

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07

TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05 IGA-02 /119 W

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R 181015Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4360

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USUN NEW YORK 320

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, UNDP, SZ

SUBJ: 24TH UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL: UNDP REPORT ON ITS FUTURE ROLE

REF: STATE 86320

1. EMBOFF MAY 13 DISCUSSED UNDP WITH BEAT JENNY AND JUERG STREULI OF MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS SECTION, SWISS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE OFFICE. JENNY SAID THAT SWISS ARE IN PROCESS DEVELOPING THEIR POSITION FOR NEXT GOVERNING COUNCIL (GC) MEETING. INITIAL THINKING OF VARIOUS GOVT OFFICES CONCERNED WITH SWISS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE POLICY ARE AS FOLLOWS:

2. UNDP ROLE: JENNY SAID SWISS SHARE CONCERNS OF OTHER GC MEMBERS ON UNDP ROLE. SWISS RECOGNIZE ADVANTAGES OF MULTILATERAL ASSISTANCE APPROACH, ESPECIALLY COST REDUCTION, BUT SWISS ALSO BELIEVE THERE IS CONTINUED NEED FOR BILATERAL PROGRAMS. SWISS ADHERE TO 1970 CONSENSUS ON SINGLE GENERAL UNDP FUND. HOWEVER, UNDP FUNDING CRISIS AND
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WORLD ECONOMIC RECESSION HAVE STIMULATED CONCERN ABOUT THE INABILITY OF OTHER AGENCIES TO RESPOND TO EMERGENCY SITUATIONS BECAUSE THEY LACK FLEXIBILITY. SWISS SEE MERIT IN THINKING NOW ABOUT FUTURE OF UNDP AND WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING LATEST US VIEWS AS AVAILABLE.

3. UNIVERSALITY: SWISS BELIEVE THIS IS DIRECTLY RELATED TO FUNDING PROBLEM, BUT THEY ALSO RECOGNIZE COST AND OTHER LIMITATIONS ON UNDP ASSISTANCE TO MORE DEVELOPED LDC'S. SWISS WOULD NOT LIKE TO SEE UNIVERSALITY PRINCIPLE ABANDONED. THEY PREFER BALANCED POLICY WITH SOMEWHAT GREATER EMPHASIS PLACED ON CREATING INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN LEAST DEVELOPED LDC'S.

4. FUNDING: SWISS DESIRE MORE EMPHASIS ON BURDEN SHARING AND ON EXAMINING NET CONTRIBUTION OF PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES. THEY FEEL SUPPORT OF LDC'S IS NEEDED TO OBTAIN GREATER OPEC CONTRIBUTIONS AND HARD CURRENCY CONTRIBUTIONS BY CURRENT SOFT CURRENCY DONORS. SWISS FAVOR LONGER-TERM PLEDGES IN VIEW OF FIVE-YEAR PROGRAMMING CYCLE BUT ARE NOT HOPEFUL THAT APPROACH COULD BE SUCCESSFUL. SWISS NOTE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS OF COUNTRIES LIKE SWITZERLAND NORMALLY PERMIT ONLY ONE-YEAR AUTHORIZATIONS. SWISS BELIEVE CREATION OF BETTER FINANCIAL RESERVE POSITION IS MORE REALISTIC APPROACH TO FUNDING PROBLEMS.

5. COORDINATION: SWISS BELIEVE UNDP RES REP IS IN BEST POSITION TO CENTRALIZE AUTHORITY AS COORDINATOR AND TEAM LEADER OF UN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. HOWEVER, THEY RECOGNIZE SYSTEM DOES NOT ALWAYS WORK. SWISS WOULD LIKE TO SEE GREATER EMPHASIS PLACED ON ENSURING THAT UNDP RES REP IS BEST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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QUALIFIED PERSON FOR THE JOB. SWISS FEEL QUALIFIED CANDIDATES FOR RES REP POSITION ARE AVAILABLE FROM NEARLY ALL PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES AND BETTER RECRUITING EFFORTS SHOULD BE MADE TO ASSURE THAT CANDIDATES FULLY CAPABLE OF TAKING ON RES REP RESPONSIBILITIES ARE LOCATED AND HIRED.

6. EVALUATION AND FEEDBACK: SWISS CONSIDER PRESENT SITUATION ONE OF TOO MANY UNCOORDINATED EVALUATION EFFORTS BY DONORS, RECIPIENTS AND WORLD BANK. SWISS WOULD LIKE TO SEE GREATER EMPHASIS ON QTE MANAGEMENT UNQTE OF EVALUATION AND PROPER STORAGE OF DATA FOR EASY ACCESS SO THAT EXPERIENCE GAINED CAN BE CALLED UP AND APPLIED WHEN SUITED TO NEW CASES.

7. GOVERNING COUNCIL: SWISS SEE ADVANTAGES IN HOLDING ONE ANNUAL GC MEETING WITH STANDING COORDINATING COMMITTEE TO HANDLE INTERIM WORK,

BUT THEY WOULD HAVE TO GIVE THIS FURTHER STUDY.
SWISS RAISED FURTHER PROBLEM OF DECIDING WHERE
ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
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